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Letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 23 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the adoption of Security Council resolution 1564 (2004) on the Sudan (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement issued on 23 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the adoption of Security Council resolution 1564 (2004) on the Sudan

The European Union (EU) welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1564 (2004).

Resolution 1564 (2004) is an important contribution to the urgently required increased pressure on the Government of Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to reach a political solution to the conflicts in Sudan as a matter of immediate priority.

The European Union fully supports the appeal made by the Security Council on the Government of Sudan to meet its obligations towards all Sudanese and the international community. The European Union also calls on the other parties to the conflicts to fully comply with their international obligations. The European Union joins the Security Council in deploring the recent ceasefire violations and stresses the urgency of ending the climate of impunity in Darfur by bringing to justice those responsible, including members of the popular defence forces and Janjaweed militia.

The European Union also welcomes the Council's preparedness to consider taking additional measures as contemplated in Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, should the Government of Sudan fail to comply fully with either resolution 1556 (2004) or resolution 1564 (2004).

The European Union attaches great importance to the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to immediately investigate all reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur by all parties, to determine whether acts of genocide have occurred and to identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to having them brought to justice.

The leadership of the African Union (AU) in the solution of the conflict in Darfur is fully recognized by the European Union. The EU will continue to provide the AU with full support for its mission in Darfur.

The European Union recognizes the need for continued humanitarian assistance and will sustain its contributions in support of those affected by the conflict in Darfur.

The European Union recalls its Council conclusions of 12 and 26 July and of 13 September 2004, and confirms its full commitment to contribute to the solution of the conflicts in Sudan as a matter of great priority.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia,[a] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

[a] Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.